

ACAH-5588

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Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

26 July 1950

Chief, Foreign Branch 1

Attention: []

Operational

Dr. Horn and Col. Lovell

REFERENCE- ACMA-10309

1. Quite unofficially it has come to our attention that Dr. Horn a short time ago wrote a rather lengthy letter in German to Col. Lovell of the Air Force. The contents of the letter are unknown to us since the staff member who obtained this information was not able to exploit his personal contacts in the Air Force to the extent necessary to ascertain this.

2. It struck me that this might be a good opportunity to discuss in a friendly fashion with Horn, and possibly certain of the others, the disadvantages of this type of correspondence with Americans in official position. It is thoroughly understandable that a high-ranking German officer would desire to maintain good relations with a well-placed American officer. For example, Gen. Speidel writes to Col. Truman Smith. I am sure that there are many similar cases. The fact remains, however, that such correspondence is insecure and can lead to much unnecessary confusion. I see no percentage in trying to prevent Horn or anyone else from writing letters, but I do think it might be well to assure him (1) that we will be pleased to forward letters to official Americans through our facilities (2) that we will be equally willing to bring his personal views, advertised as such, to the attention of almost any American official whom he may desire. In other words, this looks like a good opportunity to illustrate that the Germans in Offspring have more to gain by playing it straight with us than they have to lose. Further, no chance should be lost to indoctrinate the top-level Offspring figures into the American philosophy and way of doing business. I was much taken by the remarkable job of indoctrination which BOB did on one of its top-level agents over a period of a few years. When this individual came on a tour to the United States recently, he had an understanding of the American viewpoint on politics and other matters which was not only impressive but augured well for the type of influence he would be able to exert in his official position in Germany. Believe me, I do not intend to flail a dead

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horse, for I fully realize that you have all been in the indoctrination business ever since you hit Pullach. I simply mean to reemphasize what is often lost sight of under pressure of other work i.e. that most Germans know very little about the United States or its type of democracy despite all their protestations to the contrary. Since many of them do not want to know anything about it, it behooves us to work hard on those who appear to have some basic sympathy.

3. While on this general topic, I thought you might be interested in the attached article which appeared in The Saturday Evening Post recently. Maybe you have seen it. In any event I thought you might want to discuss with your colleagues the advisability or not of showing it to some of the Offspringers. Such things can boomerang. On the other hand the article does seem to demonstrate an attempt at fair-mindedness which cannot be lost on a reasonable person. In any event I leave the matter in your hands. Incidentally I have also enclosed the Ruark column simply as another viewpoint on a part of the article.

Fletcher M. Knight

Attachment